S.O. Bib., Colonial Office C-3 (1947) 1949 MMII Aden 9[M]

Chairways, and the French Government to operate a number of scheduled local services. Numerous charter flights were allowed. 509

Port Trust

The activity of the port continued to increase. Receipts under all budget heads were expected to exceed the estimates and, in some cases, by a considerable margin. It is too early to judge what effect the economic crisis may have on the port. 504 503

The supply of coal for bunkers continued to exceed pre-war figures by a large margin. The supply of oil-fuel for bunkers also exceeded pre-war figures.

Plans and estimates were undertaken for an extension of Maalla Wharf for lease to private interests and an order was placed in the United Kingdom for a small grab dredger.

Eighteen new harbour buoys were ordered from the United Kingdom and further anchors and mooring chains will be obtained in order to provide additional berths and modernise existing berths; provision is being made to accommodate vessels of greater length. The s.s. *Ile de France* visited Aden on several occasions. She is by far the largest vessel ever berthed at the port, her dimensions being 790 feet in length and over 34 feet in draught.

Posts and Telephones

There was a further increase in post office business during the year and accrued revenue was nearly two and a half times that earned in the last pre-war year. 651 205

There was a small increase in the transit mail services on behalf of the Somali Coast countries and Eritrea. Parcel mails in each direction between Aden and the United Kingdom were as extensively used as in 1946, and there was a slight increase in the number of gift parcels despatched from Aden to the United Kingdom.

There was a marked improvement in the frequency and in the time of transit of surface mails to and from India and Great Britain. Steadily increasing use was made of air mail services between Aden and overseas countries.

On 31st March, 1947, the pre-war Empire "All Up" air mail scheme which had been suspended since the outbreak of war in 1939, was abandoned by agreement of all participating countries, and was replaced by a new system of surcharged air mail and light letters. The annual subsidy to the Empire Air Mail Scheme was discontinued and from 1st April payment for the carriage of air mails was made by each postal administration in accordance with prescribed conveyance rates based on weight and mileage.

New air mail postage rates were introduced from 1st July. Substantial reductions were made in the rates for surcharged air mail to all countries and the light air letter rates were retained with a maximum of six annas to Empire countries.

Telephone development was completely checked by the delay in the 206